(a) Yes Sir. The Govenment of Orissa had submitted a proposal on 31.12.2001 for creation of additional storage capacity (covered) of 2 lakh MTs, and on 30.4.2002 for 1 million tonnes.

(b) and (c) The Government has already conveyed its approval to offer gauarntee for construction of 2.5 lakh MTs additional storage capacity (covered) in Orissa under Seven Years Guarantee Scheme to Managing Director, FCI on 10.1.2002.

The proposal for creation of 1 million tonnes additional storage capacity under Seven Years Guarantee Scheme in Orissa was examined in the Ministry and not found justified. However, the Chief Secretary Government of Orissa has been requested to give location-specific details of drought prone and calamity prone areas of the State.

Demand for abolition of FCI

2254. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some farmers associations and leaders are demanding abolition of Food Corporation of India in view of its high operative and administrative costs;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the action proposed to Facilitate development of the post harvest infrastructure for storage, processing, transport and export of agricultural produce?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes Sir; Shri Sharad Joshi has given a representation where, *inter alia*, he has asked for abolition of FCI and its privatisation.

(b) There is no proposal of the Government to abolish or privatize the FCI.

(c) A National Policy on Handling, Storage and Transportation of Foodgrains has already been announced by the Government to reduce post harvest losses in foodgrains and to modernize the system of handling, storage and transportation of foodgrains.

State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) and the Central Warehousing Corporation (CWC) have been requested to create additional storage capacity to the extent of 89.77 lakh Mts. under the 7 year guarantee scheme in the major procuring States. This additional capacity is under creation since 2000-01. The Government takes into account various factors such as stock position, production of foodgrains in the country, trend of procurement for Central Pool, requirement for PDS/other Welfare Scheme, Open Market Prices, etc. to decide import or export of foodgrains on Government Account.

Changes in PDS

2255. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering drastic changes with a view to put in place an efficient and prompt delivery system to curb deficiencies persisting in the existing Public Distribution System;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time-frame by when the new system is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) TPDS with it's focus on the poor was introduced in 1997 and currently envisages issue of 35 kg foodgrains per family per month. In a system of such vast magnitude involving multiple agencies deficiencies in its implementation can not be ruled out.

With a view to maintaining supplies, securing availability and distribution of Essential Commodities under the PDS, the PDS (Control) Order, 2001 has been issued on 31.8.2001.

Shortage of FCI Godowns

2256. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that due to shortage of FCI